B. Claims

Please add new claim 83 as follows. A complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. - 55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the hydrophilic or lipophilic drug is selected from the group consisting of bromocriptine, octreotide, and an acid addition salt thereof.

57. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 74, which comprises the step of:

combining a polymer, which is off-white to white in color and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, with the drug compound to form an implant or a microparticle.

58. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the off-white to white color is further defined by the requirements of the colour strengths of reference solutions B_2-B_9 of the brown colour test of the European Pharmacopoeia, 2nd Edition (1980) part I, Section V, 6.2.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer.

61. - 63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight (M_W) of from 10,000 to 200,000.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 100-25/0-75.

67. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 75-25/25-75.

68. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 60-40/40-60.

69. - 73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a polylactide polymer in a purified state, wherein the polylactide polymer in a purified state is an ester of a polyol containing at least three hydroxyl groups and is off-white to white in color, and wherein the polylactide in a purified state contains one or more metals in cationic form, wherein the one or more metals have a concentration up to 10 ppm; and

(b) a hydrophilic or lipophilic drug.

75. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polyol is glucose.

76. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is an implant.

77. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a microparticle.

78. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight (M_W) of from 25,000 to 100,000.

79. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight (M_W) of from 35,000 to 60,000.

80. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a polydispersity M_W/M_n of from 1.7 to 3.0.

81. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a polydispersity M_W/M_n of from 2.0 to 2.5.

82. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer further comprises:

(a) monomer in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(b) water in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(c) ash in a content of at most 0.1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(d) organic solvent in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(e) ethyl hexanoate in a content of at most 0.5% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer; and

(f) an acid number up to 10.

83. (New) A method of removing tin from a polylactide polymer comprising the step of:

contacting a polylactide polymer with activated charcoal.